

# Supports Intensity Scale®



Developmental Disabilities Division

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# A Note of Thanks

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The Supports Intensity Scale® (SIS®), along with other supplemental questions, are being used in several other states for the purposes of developing support plans and allocating resources.

Several of these slides in this presentation were originally developed by folks in Pennsylvania and Oregon.

**Many thanks!**

# Topics covered in this presentation

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- **Why** the Hawai'i Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD) is using the SIS
- **What** a SIS assessment is
- **Who** participates in the interview
- **What** the interview looks like
- **How** the information is used

Why is Hawaii Using the SIS?

# DDD's Guiding Principles

## *Individuals:*

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- **Are** treated with respect and dignity
- **Make** their own choices
- **Participate** in the community
- **Have** opportunities to realize their goals including economic self-sufficiency
- **Achieve** positive outcomes through individualized services and natural supports
- **Are empowered** to live self-determined lives

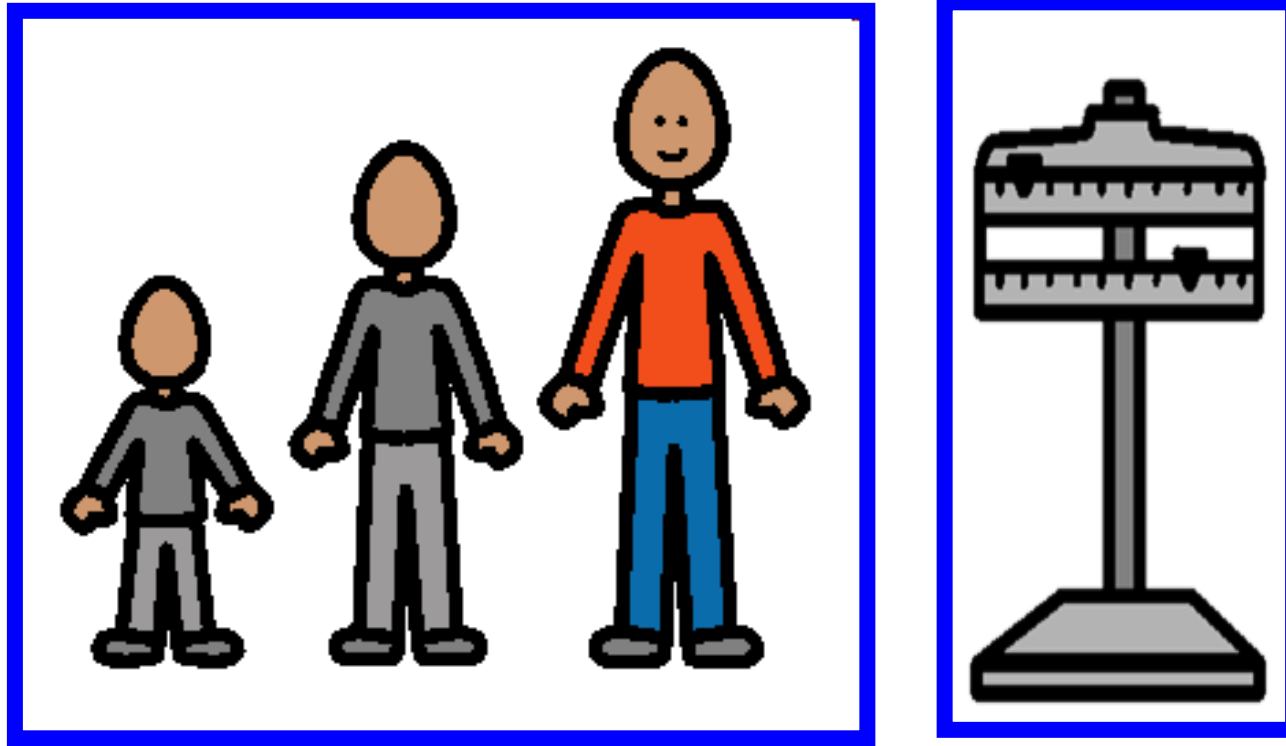
# The Developmental Disabilities Division is...

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- **Laying** the groundwork to use the **Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)** for individualized service planning
- **Developing** the **infrastructure** necessary to make sure services are successful
- **Undergoing** changes to make practices more consistent and effective

Hawai'i wants a *fair* way to measure everyone's support needs.

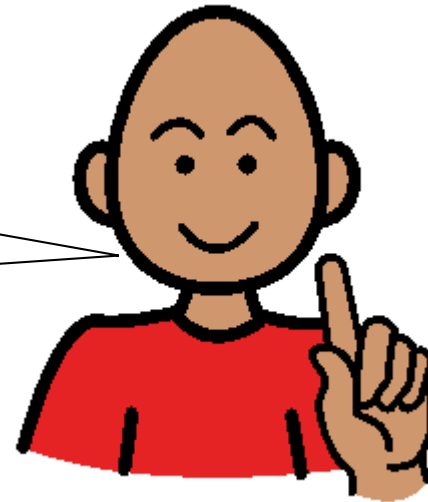
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Everyone is asked the same questions,  
so everyone is treated fairly.

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Wherever you live in  
Hawai'i, you will get the  
same questions.





# The state wants to make sure the amounts of support and funding people receive are:

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- ✓ **Fair**
- ✓ **Person-Centered**
- ✓ **Based on needs & choices**



What is a SIS assessment?

# What is the Supports Intensity Scale?

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The SIS is an assessment tool developed by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD).

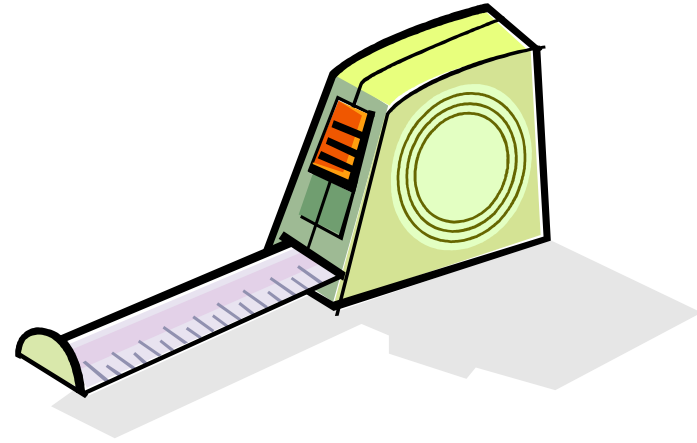


It measures the support that a person with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) needs with activities of daily life.

# What is an “assessment”?

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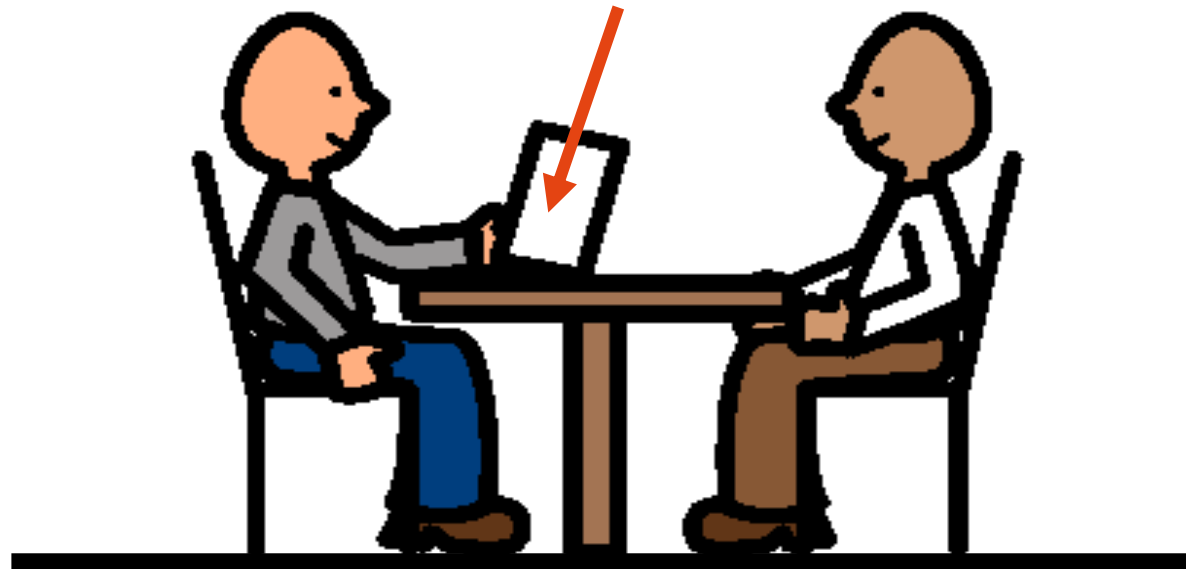
An assessment  
measures a person's  
support needs.



This is done during an interview.

The assessment interview measures your support needs by asking you and other people who know you well a set of questions.

**What support do you need?**





# What does “support” mean?

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“Support” means the help you need to do something successfully.



# What supports might Jim or Al need?

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**Can you think of some examples?**

# Here are some more examples:

**Jim** may need supports getting in and out of his chair when at work.



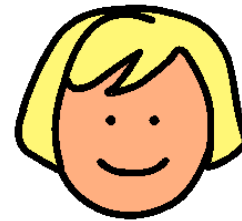
**Al** may need support with personal care like dressing, bathing, and brushing his teeth.



# Who gets a SIS assessment?

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All adults who are receiving or entering Developmental Disability services in Hawaii will get a SIS assessment.



# The people at the interview will include:

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**Your** case manager

**You** or someone you choose to represent you

**Your** guardian or other family member

**And** others who know you well like staff support, teachers, friends, or advocate

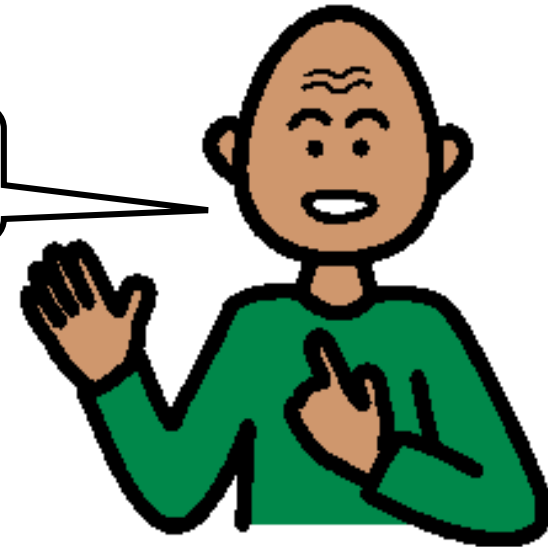


# What if I don't want to be interviewed?

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If you decide not to be interviewed, you must choose **someone who knows you well** to answer the questions *for you*.

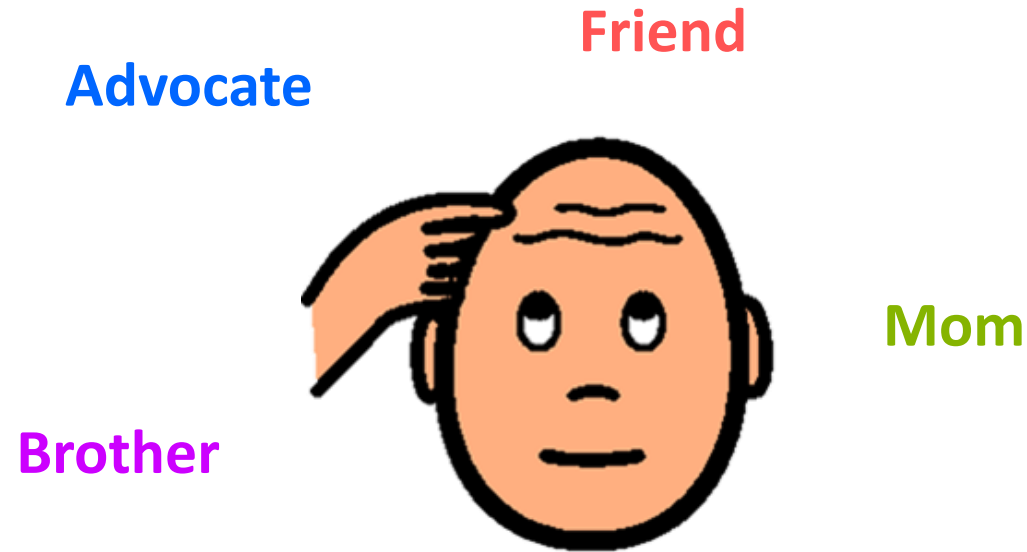
My friend asked me  
to answer for her.



# Others who can answer questions:

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A few examples...



# Others who participate...

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Must have known you for  
at least **3 months**.

Must **know you well** and  
**know what you need**.



What will the interview  
look like?

# How long will my interview be?

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Most interviews  
take about 3 hours  
to complete.



# At the interview ...

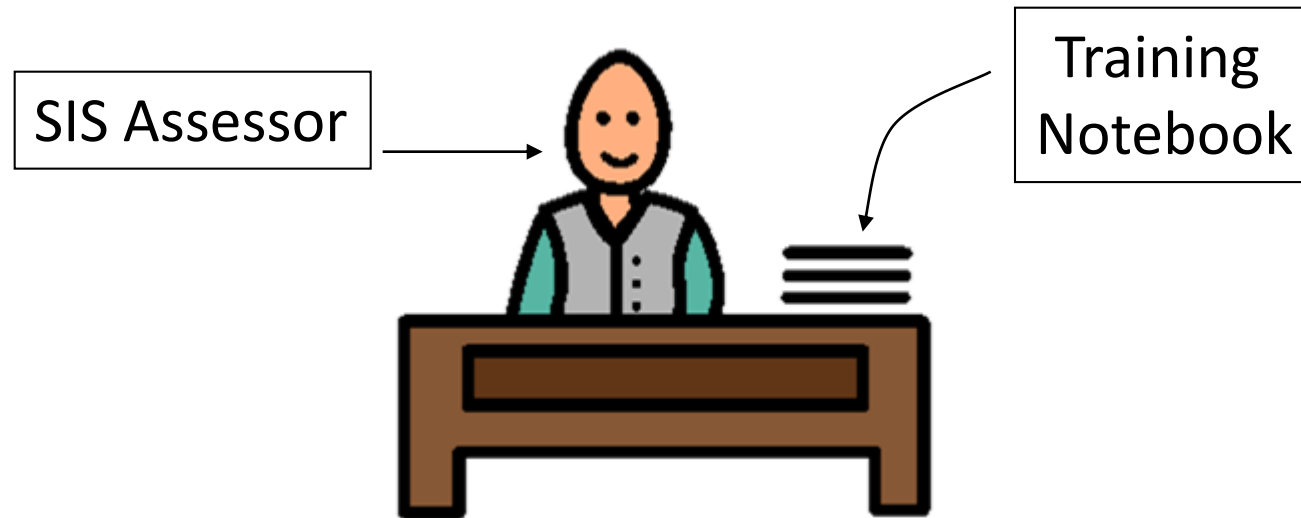
The SIS Assessor meets with you and others chosen by you.



# Who is the SIS Assessor?

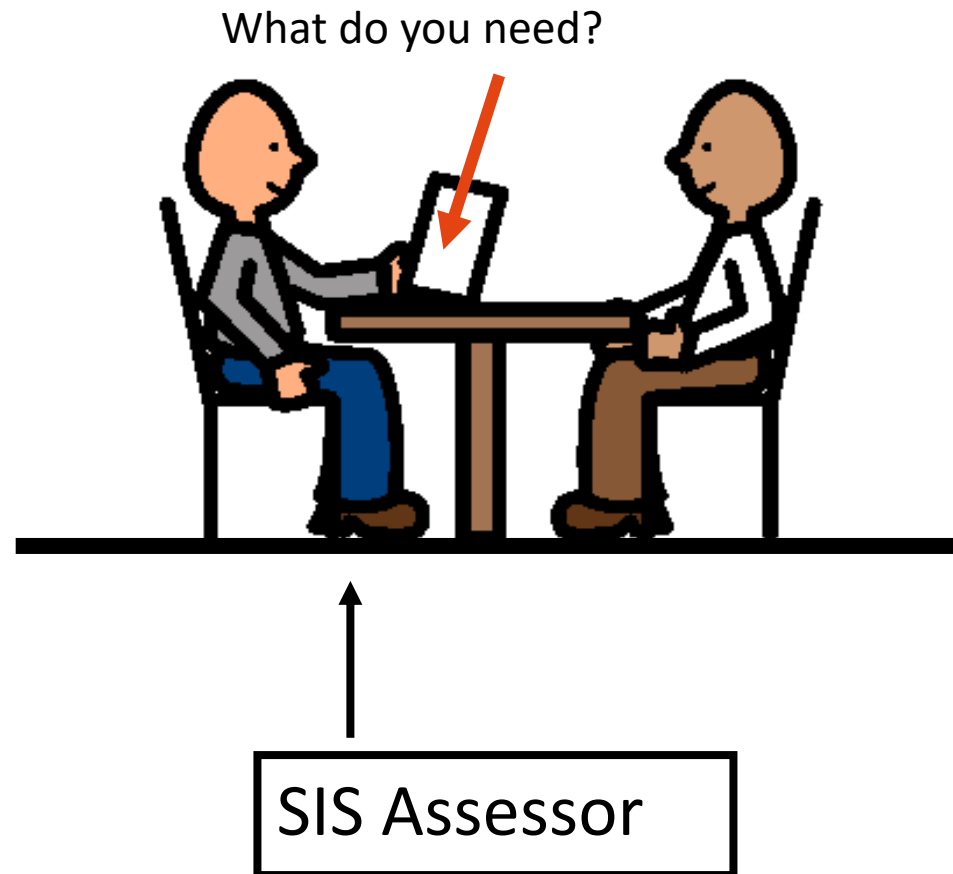
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The SIS Assessor is a person who has the training and experience needed to conduct the interviews.



# What will the SIS Assessor do?

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**Explain** the interview process.

**Ask** the interview questions.

**Write** down the answers on a computer.

# What else does the SIS Assessor do?

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The SIS Assessor helps the group reach agreement about the supports an individual needs.

# What kinds of questions are asked?

You will be asked about your support needs in areas such as:

- ➡ Home Life
- ➡ Community Life
- ➡ Lifelong Learning
- ➡ Work Life
- ➡ Social Life
- ➡ Health & Safety
- ➡ Money Matters
- ➡ Self Advocacy



The image shows a form titled "Supports Intensity Scale Interview and Profile Form" for "Adult Version (ages 18 and up)". The form is divided into several sections for data entry. The top section is for "Personal Information" and includes fields for Name, Address, City/State/Zip, Phone, Email, Date of Birth, Sex, and Race. Below this is a section for "Supports Information" with fields for "Supports needed" and "Supports in place". The bottom section is for "Provider Information" and includes fields for "Provider Name", "Provider Address", "Provider Phone", and "Provider Email". The form also features a "Provider Signature" line and a "Date" field. At the bottom, there is a logo for "AMR" (American Association on Mental Retardation) and a note about the form being a "Revised Edition" from 2008.



# For each area, you will be asked:

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**How often** you need support.

**How much** support you need.

**What type** of support you need.

# For example...

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## Things you do at home:

How often do you eat?

Do you need support to eat?

If so, what type of support do you need?

# For example...

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## Doing things in the community



How often do you visit friends or family?

How much daily support would you need?

What type of support do you need?

# For example...

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## Staying healthy & safe



How often do you take medications?

How much daily support would you need?

What type of support do you need?

# For example...

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## Taking care of medical needs



Do you have needs for support to breathe? Or any other special care?

How much support do you need?

# During the interview...

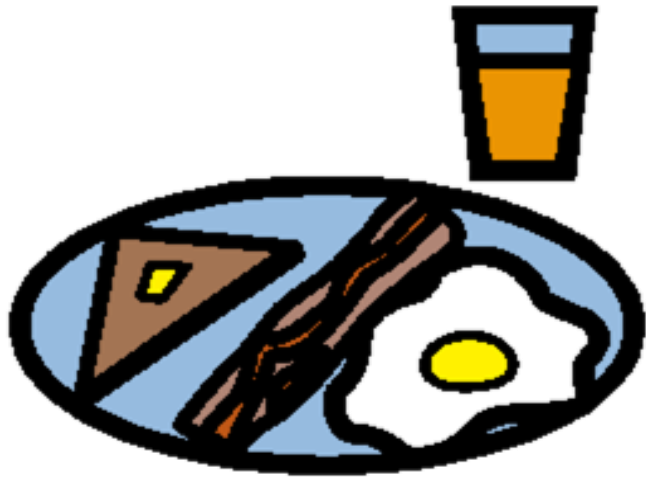
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- ✓ All the participants should speak
- ✓ All the questions must be answered...even if they don't seem to apply to you now or in the future.



# For example...

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If you don't cook, you might be asked:

“What support would you need if you did cook?”

# How often are interviews done?

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When BIG changes  
happen in a person's life  
that change the supports they need

**- OR -**

Every 3 years



How is the information used?

# Individualized supports budgets...

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**What is learned** about your support needs in the SIS interview will help determine your supports level and budget available to you to get the services that you need.

# This presentation was:

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- ✓ Originally designed by self advocates at the Pennsylvania Training Partnership for People with Disabilities and their Families at Temple University.
- ✓ Adapted by the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities, and approved by the Oregon Department of Human Services, Seniors and People with Disabilities Division.
- ✓ Adapted by the Human Services Research Institute and approved by the Hawai'i Developmental Disabilities Division.

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THANK YOU!